

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015CC328
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Name of Service:	Playland Creche
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Address of Service:	St. Mary's on the Hill, Knocknaheeny, Cork, Co. Cork
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Eircode:	T23 AH26
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Name of Registered Provider:	Aine Deasy
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Service type:	Part Time
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Date(s) of Inspection:	24/11/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	8	PM	n/a
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	Early Years Inspectorate Administration Building St Mary's Health Campus Gurrabraher Cork T23X440
Inspection undertaken by:	Ms. M. O'Reilly
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable	N/A
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Description of service

Playland Crèche is a registered part time early years service that caters for children from 1 to 3 years. Playland Crèche operates from one of the classrooms in St Mary's on the Hill Primary School, which is located in a residential area in Knocknaheeny, Cork. The current opening hours are from 08:50am to 12:30pm each day Monday to Friday. The children have access to an outdoor area which is located within the grounds of the national school. The children also have access to a room/halla within the national school building when due to inclement weather the service is not able to use the outdoor play area. This room is used in rotation with the other classrooms in the primary school.

Staffing

There is a total of 2 staff employed by the service. The registered provider is not directly involved in the care of the children but works in the national school where the early years service is located. The 2 staff working directly with the children hold a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education. On day of inspection there was a third level student present on work placement and an adult working in the national school came to assist the 2 staff later in the morning as an additional adult to assist staff to attend to the care needs of the children in attendance.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the named registered provider, person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*

(c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and

(d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

(1)

(a) There was a named designated person in charge.

(b) The person in charge was present when the inspector arrived on the premises on the day of the inspection and remained for the duration of the inspection.

(2)

The Inspector concentrated on vetting the five adults associated with the service, this included the named registered provider, the person in charge, one staff member, one student on work placement and one additional adult who is not included in the adult child ratio but assists staff each day with the care of the children. The last inspection was carried out on the 14th September 2022

(a) There were three references on file from past employers in respect of the five adults.

(b) There were seven references on file from a source other than a previous employer.

(c) A completed Garda vetting disclosure was received for each of the five adults.

(d) Not applicable as no adult had worked outside the jurisdiction for a period of longer than six consecutive months.

(4)

The two staff that worked directly with the children held a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education. The registered provider is not working directly with the children, the student is attending a third level college and is studying for a childcare qualification. The additional adult is there to assist staff with the care needs of the children and is not part of the adult child ratio therefore a childcare qualification is not required for an additional adult.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

Compliance Information

(1) The person in charge ensured that there were an adequate number of adults working directly with the children at all times.

(2) On the day of the inspection: the following adult child ratios were observed:

There were 8 children aged between 1 to 3 years with two adults and a student on work placement in attendance.

One child was aged under 2 years and the remaining 7 children were aged between two and three years. The additional adult assisted the staff later in the morning with the care needs of the children in attendance. The additional adult works in the national school and assists the staff in the early years service for a short time period each day. During the period of inspection, the ratio of staff to children was maintained as per the regulations and an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children in the care room.

Part IV – Information and Records

Regulation 16 – Record in relation to pre-school service

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of the following information in relation to the service:

(h) details of attendance by each pre-school child on a daily basis.

Compliance Information

(h) There was a role book that indicated when the child commenced and departed from the service each day. There was a drop off and collection time record which outlined when the child arrived at the service and again when the child was picked up from the service.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-

(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and

Compliance Information

- It was observed that the adults spoke kindly and offered encouragement and assisted each child as required.
- Children's nappy changing and hygiene needs were promptly and sensitively attended to. The staff members were observed to supervise and assist where required each of the children when hand washing and hand drying, and the children were supported and encouraged prior to eating and post nappy changing.
- The staff members were observed speaking with the children during snack time and using it as an opportunity to enhance social interaction with the children which promoted a relaxed atmosphere.
- Children's behaviour was managed in a competent and positive way and the adults were observed to support the children and handle any minor behavioural issues promptly. The adults supported children to be sociable and respectful towards each other and spoke and listened to them in a calm and sensitive manner.

- The adults interacted with the children at their level as they explored their environment, acknowledging their interest in various materials and communicating in a patient, encouraging manner.
- It was observed that upset children were comforted and reassured, as needed.
- Staff stated that regular updates and information was furnished to parents and guardians at drop off and collection times and via the service's electronic application by staff. Information for example included food and fluid intake, sleep monitoring checks, nappy change and toileting, play activities, emerging interests.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- The service promoted healthy eating and the food and drink provided by the service and the parents and guardians for the mid-morning snack was observed to be healthy and nutritious with age-appropriate size quantities of food for example sandwiches, yogurts and raisins with water to drink.
- The person in charge stated that the service provides the children with buttered toast and water to drink on arrival to the service each day.
- It was observed that children were provided with appropriate cutlery and crockery at snack time.
- Perishable foods were refrigerated in the service refrigerator.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.

Compliance Information

General Safety:

- Access to the main entrance door was adequately secured that prevented unauthorised access by an unauthorised person or exit by a child.
- The play materials, resources and equipment were all in good working condition.

Infection Control:

- Personal waste including used tissues and all cleaning waste was appropriately disposed of in foot operated pedal bins in the service.
- The children had access to a sufficient number of nappy changing units and toilets and wash hand basins.
- A supply of liquid soap, paper towels and thermostatically controlled hot water and bins for disposal of paper towels were available in the service.

Safe Sleep:

- There were two standard cots with correct-fitting safety mattresses for children under two that required a sleep. Each mattress was covered with a waterproof mattress cover.
- The two cots were located in the playroom area and were sufficiently cornered off from the play area to prevent playing children having access to a sleeping child.
- It was noted that one child was observed asleep in one of the cots during the inspection. The sleeping child was monitored every 10 minutes, and the sleep monitoring record was maintained on the electronic application device.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.

Compliance Information

- (1)
- (a) A record of monthly fire drills carried out was available and indicated that the last fire drill took place on the 20th October 2023
 - (b) A record of the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment was maintained. It was recorded that the fire equipment was last serviced on the 19/10/22. The emergency fire alarm system was last tested and serviced on the 19/10/2023.
- (4)
- The fire evacuation procedure for the service which contained details in relation to the procedure to be followed in the event of a fire was displayed in the service.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 28 - Insurance

A registered provider shall ensure that the pre-school service is adequately insured.

Compliance Information

The service had certification to confirm insurance cover for a total of 22 children.
Insurance cover expires on the 13/12/2023